

California

GARDEN

MARCH-APRIL 1937

Seventy-five Cents

Volume 10 Number 2

ISSN 0008-1116



EVENTS

MAR 5, 12, 19, 26
and APR 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

THURSDAY WORKSHOP – "Open to the Public"
"Free instructions" – "Pay us a visit; you might like to join us."
Casa del Prado, San Diego Floral Garden Center, Balboa Park, San Diego
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each Thursday. For info, call Mrs. Kulot 222-5480.

MAR 31

PROGRAM and TEA – San Diego Floral Association presents:
DYNAMIC ART FORMS with Henrietta England
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego
"Open to the Public" Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. Donation: \$5

APR 4

TOUR—PALM SPRINGS VIA BORRERO SPRINGS
Depart 8:00 a.m., Balboa Park (Back of Organ Pavilion)
Depart 8:30 a.m., La Jolla (Library at Wall & Gerard Sts.)
(Saturday) \$15 (No host lunch and dinner) Info: 232-5762

APR 21

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Floral Garden Center, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Program: *Haven for Horticultural Refugees*
by Jim Gibbons, Manager of Horticulture, San Diego Wild Animal Park
Open to the Public!

OTHER EVENTS / SHOWS

MAR 21, 22

13TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF IKEBANA & JAPANESE ARTS
San Diego Chapter 119, Ikebana International
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego
Sat. & Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free

MAR 21, 22

ORCHID ROUND-UP
35th Annual San Diego County Orchid Show
Al Bahr Temple, Freeway 163 & Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego
Sat: 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Adm. \$1.00

MAR 28, 29

VIOLET'S IN 3/4 TIME
Balboa Park African Violet Society, 6th Standard African Violet Show
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego
Sat: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free

APR 11, 12

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION 56TH ANNUAL STANDARD FLOWER
SHOW & GARDEN TOUR
Spreckles Park, Coronado (Orange Ave. between 5th & 6th Sts.)
Sat: 1:15 to 5:30 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adm. \$1 (children 25¢)

APR 11, 12

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB 50TH GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL
STANDARD FLOWER SHOW "GOLDEN MEMORIES"
Potter Jr. High School, Bowers Auditorium, 1943 Reche Road, Fallbrook
Sat: 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free

APR 11, 12

OUR HERITAGE IN FLOWERS
Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club
Sat. & Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

APR 12

CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL ROSE SHOW
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego
Sun: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Free

APR 18, 19

THE MANY MOODS OF ROSES
San Diego Rose Society 54th Annual Rose Show
Conference Building, Balboa Park, San Diego
Sat: 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Adm. \$1.00

APR 25, 26

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB 16TH ANNUAL SPRING SHOW
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego
Sat. & Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free

APR 25, 26

THE YEAR OF THE BEACH
Carlsbad Garden Club & Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce Annual Flower Show
Plaza Camino Real, Highway 78 & El Camino Real, Carlsbad
Sat: 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sun: 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Free

APR 25, 26

TRAVEL N.E.W.S.
San Dieguito Garden Club Annual Standard Open Flower Show
Quail Botanical Gardens, Ecke Building, Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
Sat: 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free

MAY 2, 3

PROMISE OF SPRING—Vista Garden Club Standard Flower Show
Vista Recreation Center, 160 Recreation Dr., Vista
Sat: 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free

MAY 2, 3

BEAUTIES OF SPRING—San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Soc. 16th Spring Show
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego
Sat: 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Free



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MARCH—APRIL 1981

VOLUME 72

NUMBER 2

FRONT COVER

Drawing of *Erythrina humeana*
by the late Alfred C. Hottes.
This shrubby coral tree bears gorgeous
spikes of orange-red flowers from
July to November.

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San Diego, CA 92101
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6063 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla, 1:00 p.m.



PETUNIAS

by Josephine Gray

'Plum Pudding,' 'Cherry Tart,' 'Sugar Plum,' 'Candy Apple'—these are a few of the sweets you may indulge in without fear of gaining weight. They are the names of petunias which will gladden your heart all summer long and into the fall if you take care of them.

Petunias have been given such enticing names. 'White Cascade,' 'Coral Satin'—there seems to be no end to the choices one may make, not only in color but in class, from the big wavy blossoms of the grandiflora to the heavy giant doubles. The doubles I find the least attractive; their heads are so heavy they can scarcely hold them up, but they have been hybridized for those who love the unusual. My favorites are the plain multifloras with their softly notched collars, and the gently waved or frilled grandifloras. The cascades come in this class and are excellent for hanging baskets as well as for border edging for they always have lovely long streamers to cut and bring into the house. The fragrance of petunias on a sunny afternoon is hard to describe, and brought in to your dinner table, there is some magic about the evening hour which intensifies the scent. Petunias are the most feminine of flowers; they remind me of an era when girls wore frilled organdy dresses. In spring the nurseries have many choices of types and colors, so having borders or hanging baskets is made easy.

Many people are aghast at the thought of sowing petunias, for the seed is smaller than the most finely ground speck of black pepper. In spite of the fact that all seeds have tripled in price, it is still more economical, if you want a long border, to sow them than to buy pony packs. Seedsmen help make this a painless as possible. One of the large well-known seedsmen offers cubes of compressed moss, plant food, and vermiculite. Seeds germinate rapidly and reliably, and the young seedlings can be transplanted into deep-root six packs or four-inch pots.

However I must tell you this about seedling petunias; there are always some that look weaker than others, and if you have sown doubles do not throw the weak ones away, for these in some incredibly magical way will be your most double.



THIS LOVELY PETUNIA, a clear, light yellow, is one of few yellow-flowered varieties available and is particularly effective when planted next to lavender or purple petunias or lavender ageratum.

Of course the whole business of seeds is magic. At a time when my garden was most pleasant to see and work in, some of the sections were not connected by the sawdust paths to which I was addicted, but reached by stretches of lawn or sun baked clay as hard as cement. One day, dragging a hose across one of these dry spots I looked down just in time to avoid stepping on a tiny petunia shouting at me through its little blue trumpet to "halt." There had not been petunias in that vicinity since the year before when a lovely variegated band surrounded a raised bed of marjoram. In the meantime wind, sun and rain had scoured the barren area below that bed. Where had that one infinitesimal seed been all that time, and how, with all the traffic across it since, had it been able to germinate and grow? If that is not magic I never read a fairy tale.

Petunias originally came from the Argentine where they were very unassuming rather weak little plants with small pale blue trumpets and sticky foliage. The hybridizers have done wonderful things to them in size, color and combination of color—'Razzle,' a pin-wheel of red and white, is a striking grandiflora. Among the multifloras is a beautiful

collection of mixed colors called 'Crown Jewels'; these would be fine for a window box or hanging basket or big pot. In Bath, England, all the shops that make up the square where the old Roman Baths and the Victorian Assembly Rooms are situated have baskets and pots of petunias hanging in front.

Most of these hybrid petunias will not come true, but if you have a special favorite you can propagate from cuttings. Make a clean sharp cut just above a node on a healthy 3-inch piece, dip it in rootone and set it firmly in damp sand or sand and vermiculite. Keep it out of the hot sun, and damp but not water logged.

When I think of the hybridizers I wonder what it must have felt like to be the first person to put a ruffle on a petunia! □

Editor's Note:

Josephine Gray has delighted our readers for many years with her articles on herbs and gardening. We are saddened to report that she passed away in January 1981.

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OTHER EVENTS / SHOWS continued from Page 34

MAY 3 *QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS FUN & FUNDS FESTIVAL*
 Quail Botanical Gardens, Ecke Bldg., Quail Gardens Dr.,
 Encinitas
 Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

MAY 10 *THE FOUR SEASONS*
 San Diego Epiphyllum Society 11th Annual Show
 Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego
 Sun: 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free

BALDWIN BONANZA XI

Annual Benefit Plant Sale at the
 LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM
 SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1981 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.



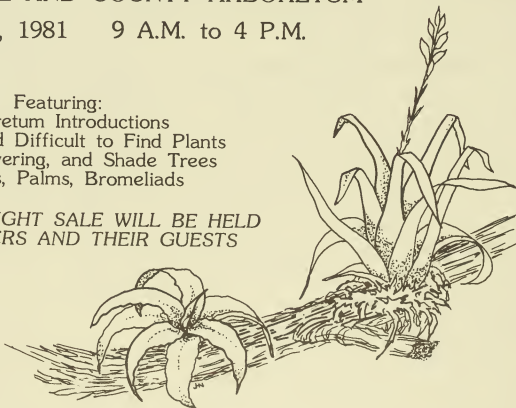
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Admission Fee in Effect

MINIATURE TREE ROSES

by *Earl McDaniel*

Graphics by CAROL GLADSON

MINIATURE ROSES, WITH their diminutive charm, have found their way into the homes and gardens of flower lovers all over the world. The color scheme is endless so the horticultural architect is limited only by his own imaginative design.

Tiny bushes with fernlike leaves, hanging baskets with trailing flowers, miniature climbers on trellises, groundcovers creeping on a bank, little trees in an array of sizes—these give a complete picture image of a lovely garden. We will turn our thoughts to the miniature tree rose.

Since tree roses are made by budding miniature roses onto a large rose stem, they can be whatever height you prefer. The average miniature tree is budded at 12 inches from the soil level. This is considered standard. A 5- to 8-inch stem will give you a bonsai-style tree. These are desirable for colder climates where they will be placed under lights during the winter months. 'Pink Clouds' stems are used as understock for the miniature roses.

Patio height trees are becoming quite popular. Patio trees are budded onto 20-inch stems using 'Dr. Huey' for sturdy understock. 'Dr. Huey' is a climber. Miniatures with large flowers, such as 'Magic Carrousel', are used for the patio trees.

Now what are the techniques involved in developing the tree rose? First, we need good hardy root stock, already rooted, to bud onto. Budding utilizes only one bud and a small section of bark, with or without wood. Budding is often termed "bud grafting", since the physiological processes involved are the same as in grafting.

T-budding is usually used in producing roses. Budding methods depend upon the bark's slipping, exposing the cambium layer. This term indicates the condition in which the bark can be easily separated from the wood. It denotes the period of the year when the plant is in active growth, when the cambium cells are actively dividing, and newly formed tissues are easily torn as the bark is lifted from the wood. These conditions exist for most plant species at three different times during the year. These periods are late July to early September (fall budding), March and

April (spring budding), and late May and early June (June budding).

The budstocks should be taken as needed, kept moist, sanitary and cool until inserted. Healing of the bud piece to the stock is greatly facilitated by the normal movement of water and nutrients up and down the stem of the root stock.

If the budding operation is done properly, the bud should unite with the stock in two or three weeks depending upon the growing conditions. Eventually the top of the root stock is cut off immediately above the bud. It is desirable to make a sloping cut, slanting away from the bud. Cutting back the rootstock forces bud growth.

T-budding is usually limited to stocks $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 inch in diameter. Most budders prefer to make the vertical cut first, then the horizontal crosscut at the top of the T. As the horizontal cut is made, the knife is given a twist to throw open the flaps of bark for insertion of the bud.

After the proper cuts are made in the stock and the incision is ready to receive the bud, the shield

McDANIEL'S MINIATURE ROSES



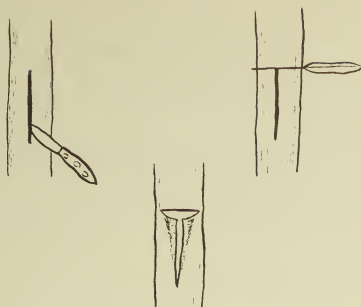
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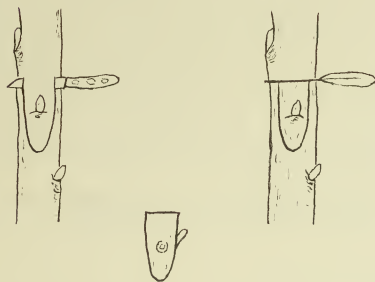
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LEMON GROVE, CA 92045

Please Phone (714) 469-4669

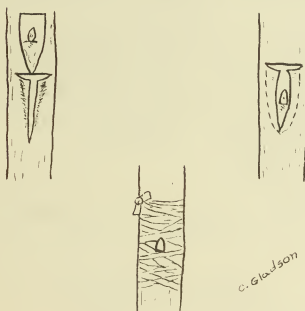
PREPARING THE STOCK



PREPARING THE BUD



INSERTING THE BUD



c. Gladson

piece is cut out of the stick. To remove the shield of bark containing the bud, a slicing cut is started at about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below the bud, continuing under and about an inch above the bud. The shield piece should be as thin as possible but still thick enough to have some rigidity. A second horizontal cut is then made $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch above the bud, thus permitting the removal of the shield piece. This cut should be just deep enough to go through the bark and not through the wood and the wood should snap loose easily by pushing it against the budstock and sliding it sideways.

The shield piece containing the bud is then inserted into the incision in the stock plant. The shield is pushed under the two raised flaps of bark until the upper horizontal cut matches the cut on the stock. The shield should fit snugly in place, covered by the two flaps of bark but with the bud exposed. The bud union is then tightly wrapped with grafting rubber budding strips. Their elasticity provides sufficient pressure to hold the bud securely. The rubber, after several weeks, will deteriorate and drop off, by which time the bud should be healed. (See drawings for the steps in T-budding.) □

Mr. McDaniel is active in San Diego Rose Society and grows miniature roses commercially.

A knight was gathering flowers for his sweetheart when he slipped and fell into a rushing stream. Before he sank he tossed her the flowers and said, "Forget-me-not". Since that day these dainty blue-eyed flowers have signified eternal love the world over.

A VISIT TO OUR
MAGAZINE ADVERTISERS
CAN ANSWER MANY OF
YOUR GARDENING QUESTIONS



ORCHIDS

A LOOK BACK

by *Byron Geer*



Orchid vendor in San Jose, Costa Rica.

COMES NOW ANOTHER spring, and with it the best time of year for most orchid enthusiasts. A time for resolving to take better care of our plants in an attempt to improve growth and flowering. A time for sitting back and surveying the overall picture. Seldom do we get the results that we hope for with our plants, and usually it is nobody's fault but our own. Regular readers of *California Garden* have had very good advice over the years about what to do and what not to do. Reviewing this past advice the other night while on a nostalgia binge, I gathered up and re-read some twenty years of articles and care calendars. The thought was that surely the gospels expounded so long ago could not stand the test of time and would be hopelessly outdated.

Strangely enough, this is not at all the case. Oh yes, some updating is in order, but the good gardening practices laid out in the past have not changed one little bit. Proper watering, adequate feeding, sensible light exposure, judicious wind control, and war on insect pests have been outlined many times in these pages and it should not be necessary to repeat them here. There are, however, a few things in

the orchid world that are new, and perhaps we should take a look at them.

It has been said that if one waits long enough, anything considered passe' will come back into style. Dedicated gardeners do sometimes seem to be moved by trends, and orchid hobbyists are no exception. As an example, along about the turn of the century every would-be orchidist was collecting species. The literature of the time tells of hundreds of thousands of wild orchids imported for sale and, unfortunately, of other hundreds of thousands that did not survive collection. Even then, the environmentalists of the day worried about overcollecting and the subsequent disappearance in nature of species. They have been proven correct in their thinking, but our belated attempts to halt the ruthless decimation of the native forests are not meeting with much success. The problem now is not with the orchid collectors; by and large, they realize that it is to their best interest to maintain some steady source of plants. The real problem is with the apathetic governments and the bureaucrats who are actively supporting the wholesale destruction of forest habitats in a conversion to

agricultural use. In this process nothing is saved but the bare ground, and it is sickening to ponder the plant material lost forever. In too many cases, entire populations of species are wiped out, never to be re-established by seeding.

All of which leads up to the revival of interest in the collection and propagation of species orchids. We are finding more and ever more types of orchids that grow and bloom quite happily out of doors in our balmy climate. Coastal southern California has not had a really severe winter for a number of years, and it remains to be seen whether or not our experimental outdoor plants will stand up under the rigors of an icy season. It is probable that we will find the species and simple hybrids to be tolerant, with the level of tolerance decreasing in direct proportion to the complexity of the breeding. The big problem here is that the species and simple hybrids are becoming increasingly hard to come by. They have been left pretty much languishing by the wayside in our headlong race toward developing larger and more colorful flowers. Which takes us on a roundabout route back to the fact that if the species and less complex hybrids are to be available in any quantity, the orchidist of today is going to have to propagate them, since they will not be available by importation. And in truth, today's orchidists are frantically backstroking to the turn of the century, trying to find the better examples of the species used in the earlier breeding programs. All too often we find that we do not have and cannot obtain the materials we need. And we will have to admit that those who predicted the extinction of the species will have been proven right again. And it will be too late.

On a less somber note, it is heartening to note that the growing of orchids purely for enjoyment is increasing by leaps and bounds. Each new year reflects an upsurge in membership for the national orchid societies and brings a new list of publications slanted toward the amateur grower. Local orchid societies report growing membership, and the demand for plants is apparent in the various nurseries that specialize in orchid material. Of the popular types, the cymbidium still seems to hold the number one position. Probably more people grow the cymbidium than all the other orchids put together. It is, all at the same time, (1) the easiest orchid to grow, (2) the longest lasting in flower, and (3) the least demanding in cultural requirements. Many years ago it was

predicted in these pages that the cymbidium would one day be a common garden plant, and so it has become. The finer varieties are still relatively expensive, but we expect this to be so with new introductions in any plant group. There are still plenty of good plants available at prices within the reach of the plain dirt gardener.

The commercial rush to introduce new hybrids seems to have slowed down somewhat, and with reason. A point of no return has been reached in cymbidium flower size, since anything over 6 inches or so is of no practical use to the florists who absorb the bigger part of commercial production. A wider array of color and shade is possible, and eventually we will have a complete color spectrum. It may take years, but we will get there. Let us not forget the miniature cymbidium which is gaining ever more favor with the backyard gardener faced with space limitations. Its more manageable size, heavier flower production, and extended range of color combinations all help to account for its great popularity.

Those hobbyists who sigh for phalaenopsis have had a good shot in the arm the last few years with the introduction to breeding of some of the more obscure species. The so-called novelty hybrids which resulted have all but revolutionized the phalaenopsis world. They come now in pinks and yellows and all combinations in between with every striped, barred, dotted, and feathered variation imaginable. Of course, the large white or pink flower is still the overall favorite, but just wait a few years more until the novelty types have attained some real size. They will give the whites and pinks a good run for first place.

Mention was made a while back regarding the cyclic nature of trends and fashions in orchid growing. The perfect illustration can be found in the current craze for paphiopedilum species and their primary hybrids. Certainly the species have always maintained at least a minor place in collections, but the primary hybrids had become all but unknown. Rarely found, they were invariably consigned to oblivion as uninteresting curiosities and usually trashed. And the unthinking grower who tossed them out now wishes that he had reserved a place for them, as they command top price on today's market and there are nowhere near enough to supply the demand. Scant parent material was at hand, and new species plants had to be collected in order to remake the

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primaries. Little known for some sixty or so years, a whole new world of utterly charming paphiopedilum has been rediscovered. Anyone who thinks of paphs in terms of modern hybrids, 5- and 6-inch round symmetrical flowers, has a great treat in store for him with his first exposure to the early beginnings of paph breeding. The first man-made cross is only 111 years old, but the changes wrought within that interval are almost beyond belief.

Still topping all the others, the showy cattleya complex yet remains the queen of the orchids. It is for many people the orchid of all time. For size, delicacy, and color variation it simply cannot be bettered. Add to this the fact that it can be had in flower 12 months of the year, and you have an unbeatable combination. There is an ever increasing range of color too, especially in the direction of two-tone flowers and the red-yellow mixes that produce the appealing 'Art' shades. With all these things going for it, it is regrettable that hybridizing has slowed down since the introduction of the mericlone plant. It is very well to have plants of the top grade award winning material at our command for very reasonable prices, but fewer new seedling crosses are being offered the public. What this means, in essence, is that fewer new crosses are coming along and it makes me wonder from whence will come the award winners of the future.

All in all, great progress has been made in the orchid field in the last hundred years. Let us all hope that the next hundred produces as much without the loss of those precious things we already have. □

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"Early inhabitants of the East believed that the banana plant was the source of good and evil and that the serpent which tempted Eve hid in a bunch of the fruit," writes W. T. Pope of the Hawaii Experiment Station of the USDA. "Undoubtedly this legend influenced the early classifiers who designated two species of the plant as *Musa paradisiaca* (Fruit of Paradise) and *Musa sapientum* (Fruit of Knowledge)." The common name, banana was adopted from the language of an African Congo tribe, and first came into use during the sixteenth century. Prior to that time the fruit was called "apple of paradise" and "Adam's Fig." The name banana seems to have been borne for a long period by the fruit, which was eaten raw. The term plantain was given to a variety which, though closely related to the banana, is edible only after being cooked. The generic name *Musa* for the banana group was bestowed by the botanist Linnaeus in honor of Antonius Musa, a learned physician of the early Roman Empire.

THE SWEET PEA is a native of the island of Sicily. It was first mentioned in 1695, by an Italian monk, who sent seeds to England and Holland.

Baja California Natives

for the Home Landscape

by Gilbert A. Voss

Horticulturist, Quail Botanical Gardens

White Flowers

Drawings by author

MANY OF US are growing California natives for drought resistant landscapes, so why not mix in some of the exotic natives of Baja California? These plants caught the attention of our state's first landscapers, the padres, who may have brought in seeds of palm species seen on the route north, along with cuttings and seeds of olive, fig, and other familiar cultivated plants.

Fan palms have been and still are used for thatching all kinds of structures. The Mexican fan palm, *Washingtonia robusta*, and later the California fan palm, *Washingtonia filifera*, were cultivated specifically for this use. Mexican fan palms still reseed prolifically around springs near some of the old California missions. Palms, manzanitas, ceanothus, desert sages, and out-of-the-ordinary trees can be combined to create a garden that will be colorful and inviting the year around. The blues and lilacs of the increasingly popular California lilac, *Ceanothus cvs.*, combined with the grays of Cleveland sage, *Salvia clevelandii*, and the yellow-flowered brittlebush, *Encelia farinosa*, go well with palm groupings and large trees and shrubs such as the white-flowered feather trees, *Lysiloma thornberi* and *L. candida*, with its white bark. Other choices could be sumacs, *Rhus spp.*, and the yellow trumpet flower, *Tecoma stans*, which has a long history of use in making boxes as well as in landscaping.

IDRIA COLUMNARIS

GA



By adding some of the diverse types of Baja California cacti such a garden can be made to reflect as much desert as one would like. Cactus nurseries are being encouraged to grow more of their plants from seeds and cuttings, because these adapt far better to garden conditions than do imported plants. Perfect drainage provided by loose sandy soil is essential for success with Baja California native plants. Given proper care, seedlings of all these plants make rapid growth in southern California gardens. Every Baja California garden should include at least one prickly pear cactus, *Opuntia*—even though the particular variety included may very likely not be a native of that area.

Species of agave, yucca, ocotillo, and elephant tree are other deserticulous plants that can be included, but some gardeners find agaves and yuccas too

dangerous in close quarters, and some find the ocotillos, *Fouquieria* spp., and the elephant trees, *Bursera* and *Pachycormus* spp., too difficult to cultivate, especially near the coast. The boojum tree, *Idria columnaris*, an ocotillo relative, is a little easier to grow, and the good news is that seedlings are now becoming available locally.

Any garden of Baja California plants should be highlighted with the eye-catching white species of chalk lettuce, *Dudleya brittonii* and others. These small and unarmed succulents are of easy care and they perform well along the coast, either in sun or in shade.

Any of the attractive plants mentioned here will bring a bit of California history, as well as unusual form or color, or both, to your garden. □

Nolina

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY HELEN CHAMLEE

I COULD ASK, "Do you know this plant?" and you most likely would answer, "No, I've never seen it."

It is nolina (no-line-ah), a native of southern California's desert mountainsides. Botanically speaking it is *Nolina parryi*, Parry's nolina, named after the same Dr. C. C. Parry who discovered the Torrey pine in 1850.

Very likely you have seen some nolinas if you have traveled at all from coast to desert over any of several southern California passes—seen them and mistaken them for yuccas. At a distance, and from a moving car, the nolina does resemble the most common of our yuccas, the one called variously Lord's candle, Whipple yucca, chaparral yucca, or simply yucca. That one is *Yucca whipplei*. Both the yucca and the nolina have great clusters of leaves in basal rosettes, and both send up tall stalks bearing masses of cream or white flowers. However there is an immediate difference after flowering; the yucca plant dies, while the nolina goes on and on, developing in time a short, thick, woody trunk with the crown of leaves spraying out like a fountain from the top.

The young specimen in the photograph has not yet developed any visible trunk, and its flower stalks are shorter than those you would see on old plants near Jacumba, beside the Palms-to-Pine highway, or at Culp Valley, off Montezuma grade.

Look at the flowers in the picture. Remember those yucca flowers—creamy bells that spread into six-pointed stars? Nothing like that here. Nolina flowers are minute, about a quarter of an inch long and so numerous the effect is of delicate lace. As this plant ages the flower clusters will be held high above the foliage, on a slender stalk, slimmer than a yucca stalk.

Nolina plants are either male or female and there is no way to determine until it blooms whether you have a boy or a girl. Both my plants turned out to be male. Those tiny flowers fall shortly after blooming. On a female plant the ovaries develop



Nolina parryi

into papery-winged capsules that whisper in the wind. Each capsule is about a third of an inch long divided into three cells, each holding one or two seeds. This is another distinction from the yucca with its inch-long fat capsules stacked with dozens of flat black seeds. So if you are close enough you will be able to distinguish these two plants from their dry stalks.

The leaves are different too. Yucca leaves are stiff and sharply pointed, and bluish green. Nolina are flexible, and entirely lacking spearlike points, a factor making it more welcome in a small garden.

I recommend nolina for garden use, if you can find it. With its slow rate of growth it can be regarded as permanent. The mound of long narrow leaves contrasts pleasantly with the usual run of garden shrubs. It is trouble-free, does not die of starvation or drought and nothing eats it, not even snails. □

CORAL TREES ARE well suited to the climatic conditions of southern California and are among the best known flowering trees to have been introduced from various parts of the world. They were one of the featured offerings and introductions of Hugh Evans who in 1934 established a nursery firm in the Brentwood section of Los Angeles, and through the years that firm carried at least eleven species. Of the more than thirty species introduced into California, probably only seven are seen occasionally, from Santa Barbara to San Diego and eastward to Riverside. The remainder are less frequently encountered; some are known only as a single specimen or two, while the present day existence of others cannot be verified.

Erythrina lysistemon is a South African native now widely cultivated—

Coral trees belong to *Erythrina*, a genus of the Legume Family with just over one hundred species. More than half of the species occur in North and South America, the remainder in Africa, tropical Asia, Australia, Tahiti, and Hawaii. Mostly trees, or a few shrubs and perennials, their leaves are always divided into three leaflets, flowers always have five petals with the typical arrangement of the family and the fruit is a bean-like pod having red or black to brown seeds. Flowers are red and often in showy clusters, making the plants attractive and often conspicuous features of the landscape. Of the species cultivated in California several can be identified only if flowers are present on the plants encountered.

The cockspur thorn, *Erythrina crista-galli*, was one of the first trees to be introduced into California after it became a state in 1850. Colonel James L. Warren, Sacramento nurseryman, listed it in his catalog of 1853. One of the hardiest of all coral trees, the cockspur thorn is the most widely planted around the world. Since it is so frequently seen in California it was probably introduced more than once. During winter it responds to frost and low temperatures by dying back but the following spring new growth appears. It may be pruned as necessary. The flowering season is long, from spring through fall and even into winter months in milder climate areas.



Coral Trees

by Elizabeth McClintock

Flowers appear with the leaves and are terminal on flowering stalks as much as 15 to 20 inches long. Below the terminal flowering clusters additional flowers appear in the leaf axils. Flower color is usually a deep coral-red but may be paler, even rarely almost white. Individual flowers are among the



n San Diego

Drawing by Alfred C. Hottes

largest of the genus. They have an unusually broad banner, about an inch long, which is reflexed to expose the falcate united keel more than half as long as the banner.

Erythrina crista-galli is native to South America. A large old specimen may be seen in

Balboa Park (San Diego) in the lawn area near the northwestern corner of the Natural History Museum.

Bidwill's coral tree, *Erythrina bidwillii*, a hybrid between *E. crista-galli* and *E. herbacea*, is the best known, the oldest and the most widely planted of the several *Erythrina* hybrids. It is a semi-herbaceous, deciduous shrub usually 3 to 6 feet, or as much as 10 to 12 feet tall, with several trunks from the base. Very handsome, it is vigorous, withstands frost and can be cut back after flowering. The vivid red flowers on a stalk 8 to 10 inches long, have a broad banner about 2 inches long, only slightly reflexed from the other flower parts. Flowering season lasts from spring through summer and flowers occur with the leaves.

I have not located a specimen in San Diego of Bidwill's coral tree, but it should be looked for because it is seen in other parts of southern California.

Erythrina falcata is a handsome tree, evergreen or nearly so, 30 to 40 feet tall with a spreading crown. Red flowers are scattered on stalks 6 to 12 inches long, often several grouped together and hanging from the ends of branches. The broad banner, falcate (sickle) in shape, about one and a half inches long, partially encloses the other flower parts. It is a native to South America. A large old tree close to 40 feet tall, with rough, irregularly checked bark, stands in the lawn area at the northwestern corner of Balboa Park near Sixth Avenue and Upas Street. This tree is said to date back to the time of Kate Sessions, which would make it the oldest tree of this species in California. (It was in this section of Balboa Park that in 1892 Miss Sessions was granted a lease of some thirty acres of land.)

The naked coral tree or flame coral tree, *Erythrina coralloides*, takes its common names from its bright red flower clusters which appear in mid-spring while trees are leafless. A slow-growing, deciduous tree, 20 to as much as 40 feet tall, it has a picturesque, irregularly branching habit and when the densely flowered, bright red, cone-shaped flowering stalks appear at the ends of turned-up branch tips it is a striking sight. Individual flowers have a narrow banner just over 2 inches long which encloses the other flower parts. The flowering season may begin in late winter, usually in March, and lasts until June.

The naked coral tree is a native of eastern Mexico, mostly at elevations of 2500 to 7500 feet. It is cultivated in Mexico and is sometimes seen in

Mexico City. A large old tree in the Children's Zoo of the San Diego Zoological Gardens is about 30 feet tall, with a broad crown 35 feet across and several trunks from the base. It was planted at this site in 1935, as a good-sized specimen, so its age is not known.

Cape kaffirboom, *Erythrina caffra*, a broad-crowned tree, is without its leaves for only a short time; the leaves drop as the budding flower clusters form. It is an attractive avenue and residential shade tree, though somewhat hazardous because of its brittle wood. Its clusters of scarlet flowers are among the showiest of all coral trees. Individual flowers are large with an expanded, spreading banner, about 2 inches long, reflexed to expose the other flower parts. The flowering season extends from February through March.

Cape kaffirboom comes from southern Africa where its distribution is limited to the coastal strip of the eastern Cape Province, the south coast of Natal and Zululand. Since 1975 it has become one of the most frequently planted trees in industrial areas of Orange and San Diego counties. In Balboa Park it may be seen in the northwestern area and elsewhere in San Diego along Harbor Drive in Spanish Landing Park.

Kaffirboom, *Erythrina lysistemon*, like Cape kaffirboom, is from South Africa, but it has a wider distribution, occurring farther inland. In southern California it is semi-deciduous to completely deciduous and usually 25 to 30 feet tall with a broadly spreading crown. Its bright orange-red flowers occur in terminal clusters. The individual flowers are not as large as those of *Erythrina caffra* nor are the flower clusters as large, but the color is more brilliant. Flowers of *E. lysistemon* have narrow, nearly erect banners, about 2 inches long which enclose the other flower parts, in contrast to those of *E. caffra* in which the broader banners are reflexed away from the other flower parts.

Dwarf kaffirboom, *Erythrina humeana*, is also from southern Africa, in eastern Cape Province, northward through Natal, Zululand, and eastern Transvaal. In spite of its common name it is hardly a dwarf. It is deciduous, a large shrub or medium-sized tree 15 to 25 feet tall. The showy spikes of bright orange-red flowers, occurring from July through November, are up to 2 feet long and often produced on very young plants. Individual flowers superficially look like those of *E. lysistemon* with narrow folded

banners enclosing the other flower parts. Unlike the other erythrinas already mentioned, *E. humeana* has a tubular calyx which is colored red, much as the petals.

Erythrina humeana is one of the few species of the genus which shows considerable variation in the outline and lobing of the three leaflets. Some leaflets are ovate and more or less rounded at their apices while others are triangular-hastate (arrow-shaped) and taper to long acuminate tips. Hastate-leaved plants may be referred to as *E. humeana* cultivar 'Raja.'

Other coral trees in San Diego have been planted in the Zoological Gardens and of these some are only rarely, or not at all, seen outside of the Zoo. Several are worthy of wider use and it is hoped that they will eventually be distributed by the Zoological Gardens. □

Elizabeth McClintock is Research Associate, Department of Botany, University of California, Berkeley. Her interest in *Erythrina* in southern California goes back to the 1940's when she became interested in correctly identifying the several species being grown.

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Okra

a misunderstood vegetable

by Rosalie Garcia

IN LATE SUMMER our markets have packages and bins of okra that many people do not buy because they have never eaten it and are not about to try it! Since it is a tropical vegetable brought first to our Gulf Coast by the French and Spanish and their African cooks, it stayed there a long time and flourished in the hot and humid gulf climate. Gradually it was noticed that okra would grow anywhere that cotton would grow. As cotton planting spread, so did okra. Both are of the mallow family. The big, single yellow-green flower of the okra looked like the hibiscus, so it became *Hibiscus esculentus*. The young, tender seed pod is the edible part.

The early okra, even in my memory, was a dark green, stubby, ribbed pod, hairy and tough unless cut when no more than 3 inches long.

Since the hybridizers have been working on okra, they have stabilized varieties up to 6 inches in length, with dark green, light green, or even red pods. They have eliminated the ribs and hairiness.

In the hot valleys of California where irrigation is practiced, okra flourishes, but along our cool coast one must create the hot, humid climate, and it is the real green-thumber who is successful. I never was. I had some scrawny plants that struggled along, but I was not proud of them. I knew of one person who had a walled garden with a south-facing brick wall that held heat into the night. The okra liked this and rewarded him with a good crop of the pale green 'Green Velvet.' The favorite is 'Clemson Spineless,' the one we most often find in our markets. It is hardy, long-bearing, and easy to handle and ship. It is the one canned and frozen most often.

Because of the mucilaginous texture of the pod, okra is repulsive to many. We, as children in the south, called it "slickum." We even invented a game of picking up a cooked pod, putting it end first into our mouth, and with a kind of slurp, swallowing it



Okra Clemson Spineless

whole. To make it really interesting we tried to see who could down the greatest number.

Timid and finicky children and adults who would not touch okra may have prompted cooks to invent so many ways to fry it, for hot fat eliminates the slipperiness and turns the flesh into crisp morsels to accompany meats and other vegetables.

Long ago the French-inspired cooks in Louisiana dipped their okra in batter and fried it in deep fat, or they dipped it in beaten egg and rolled it in cornmeal flavored with file' (an herb powder) before frying. Also they layered sliced okra in casseroles with cheese, bread crumbs, eggs, and milk with a generous sprinkling of herbs, and baked it.

But the dish that really immortalized the cooks was their gumbo. The Africans called okra gumbo or gobo, so the stews and soups they made of fowl and small game, vegetables, and okra, they called gumbos to distinguish them from other stews, or ragouts as the French called them.

My southern grandmother devised a stew in late summer when it was hot and dry and gardens had dried up leaving only a few field peas, butter beans, maybe a potato or two, peppers, tomatoes, and some okra. She added a ham bone to the vegetables in an iron pot hung over the wood fire in the backyard. She called this concoction "slumgugeon." I have heard since that the name was not entirely original with her, but the dish had the same beginning as gumbo, combining what one had into a tasty, nourishing meal.

Using okra in soups and stews provides the body that is most satisfactory. It beats flour, cornstarch, or arrowroot as thickening, but one must not be heavy-handed. Two or three fresh or frozen pods chopped into small segments and added about 10 minutes before serving will add the flavor and consistency one wants.

One of my favorite meals for unexpected guests is a can of field peas (has some hot pepper in it) and a can of okra poured into a skillet where I have sautéed some bits of ham or other meat. About a half cup of tomato sauce added to it and all served over fresh, hot noodles or rice with a salad and one has a hot meal in 20 minutes.

Okra can be prepared in any way one can use any tender vegetable. It has food value of calcium, cellulose, carbohydrate, and vitamin B. It is amenable to various and even strong seasonings, but beware of over-cooking.

Okra has been around a long time. Let's get acquainted with it! □

CULTURA OF OKRA

Varieties of okra now available will produce in six weeks to two months from time of setting out if the days and nights are warm.

The seeds are round, very hard and need two days of soaking; they respond to starting in hot trays or indoor planting. The plants should be 3 to 4 inches high when set out in rich, loose soil in sunny locations.

Once the plants start blooming the pods develop quickly and should be harvested by cutting, with a sharp knife, every two or three days. As with sweetpeas, the harvest season is shortened if pods are left on the plant.

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BOOK REVIEW

DRIP SYSTEM WATERING by Jack Kramer. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1980, 144 pages \$9.95

The basic principle of drip irrigation is not new; Californians see it used commercially in hillside orchards, and it can be as simple as a tin can with some holes punched in it. Getting water to the roots of plants rather than to the surface of the soil conserves water and applies it more systematically.

Mr. Kramer is highly enthusiastic about his subject and its advantages. He describes apparatus that can be made by the gardener, and he also gets into the details of elaborate installations, especially those by Drip and Mist Watering Systems in San Juan Capistrano; Subterranean Irrigation Company in Santa Ana; Reed Irrigation Systems in El Cajon, and Gro-Mor in Anaheim, all in California. The word must have got around that southern California is that place to conserve. The book is well illustrated with drawings and photographs.

Reviewed by **RUSSELL P. MacFALL**

ESPALIERS AND VINES FOR THE HOME GARDEN
Herbert O. Perkins, The Iowa University Press, Ames, Iowa, 200 pages, \$9.95

Although this book, written fifteen years ago and republished in 1979, deals mostly with the cold weather plants and vines of New England, it is valuable to the western gardener because the techniques of planting and training espaliers are covered so well with explicit drawings and directions that are easy to follow. Mr. Perkins, a landscape architect, lived and worked in New England.

The book is worth reading if only to remind one that there is more than one way to grow a plant. In our era of small garden spaces, more and more espaliered fruits and vegetables will be seen. They save space while being decorative in an unusual way.

Reviewed by **ROSALIE GARCIA**

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FROM ANCIENT TIMES caraway has been useful in many ways. Caraway seeds have been found in prehistoric lake dwellings in Switzerland. For true believers it has these powers: no thief can steal anything that contains it. It also keeps lovers from straying.

CONTAINER CULTURE WITH BLIND POTS

by *Stuart H. Macdonald*

Drawings by *Kristine Erickson*

Photos by *Bill Gunther*

A BLIND POT is nothing more complicated than a planting container with no hole in the bottom. That hole, of course, is the difference between good drainage and no drainage. If you are growing yellow water iris or papyrus, wet soil is not a problem, but for normal plant culture some special techniques must be used.

There are a number of reasons for using blind pots. Most commonly the gardener finds an attractive container not designed for planting. Sometimes a drainage hole can be drilled; often the material is too fragile to permit enough holes or a large enough hole. Another problem is the large indoor or patio container. It may be inconvenient or unattractive to have a "saucer" large enough to catch water draining from a



UPPER: The bold curved lines superimposed on this pot are repeated in the curved leaf patterns of *Spathiphyllum* plant. The plant and the pot, together, make a far more pleasing picture than would either the pot alone or the plant alone.

LEFT: The skunks climbing the pot add a touch of whimsy—but more important than that, they unify the setting by linking the dark leaves of the *Aglaonema* plant to the dark tabletop. A house plant should be coordinated with its pot and its setting just as an artistic floral arrangement should be coordinated with its container and with its exhibit niche.



6-foot ficus or palm.

For two reasons it is not wise to water a blind pot sparingly. If the roots in the bottom of the pot do not get enough water, the plants will not flourish, and secondly, undesirable chemicals dissolved in the West's hard water remain in the soil unless flushed out periodically. The solution to the drainage problem is

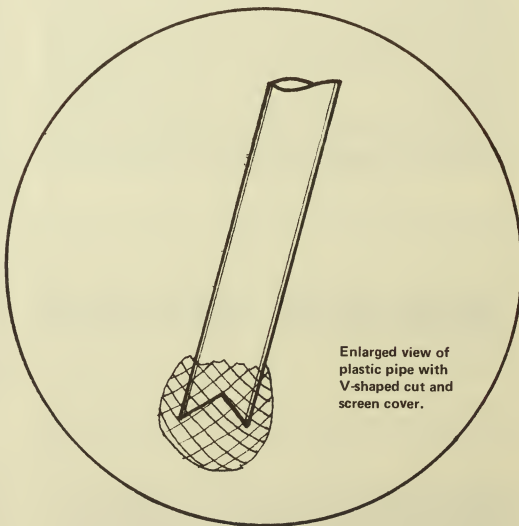


Installation of plastic pipe in the container so the tip reaches the drainage material in the bottom of the pot. This pipe admits a siphon tube to pump out excess water.

to fill the bottom of the blind pot with 1 to 6 inches (depending on the size of the container) of fine gravel or exploded rock particles which are porous and help to provide air-holding capacity and drainage; or with 6 to 8 inches of pea gravel for a very large, deep pot. Mix in a few broken pieces of charcoal to help control growth of harmful organisms. Place a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ - to $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch diameter plastic pipe (such as

that used in sprinkler systems) in the container. Note that the end of the pipe has a V-shaped notch and is covered with screening. When planting, use a porous soil mixture such as equal parts of exploded rock particles, peat moss, and redwood compost; or one can use sand, potting soil, vermiculite, and compost. Place the soil in the container until the root ball sits at the desired height. Tamp soil around the root ball but do not cover it.

For the first watering, use vitamin B1 to stimulate root growth and water thoroughly. The next day, siphon out excess water through the plastic pipe. Any type of siphon tube, bulb baster, or bulb-type siphon can be used depending on the depth of the container. For normal watering, dig into the soil a couple of inches and water if it feels dry.



Enlarged view of plastic pipe with V-shaped cut and screen cover.

Normal precautions against overwatering should be carefully observed when using blind pots. Remember to siphon out the excess soon after each watering.

The plants should be fed monthly or with a timed-release type of fertilizer. General container plant care should be followed, such as keeping plants away from temperature extremes, providing adequate light without scorching leaves, maintaining humidity, and watching for signs of insects or disease.

A wide variety of plants can be grown by these methods. A local garden center reports success with:

- *Chamaedorea seifrizii*—a small clustering shade palm.
- *Corynocarpus laevigata*—New Zealand laurel
- *Ficus benjamina*—weeping fig or sometimes called weeping laurel.
- *Phoenix roebelenii*—pigmy date palm
- *Tupidanthus calypttratus*—evergreen shrub resembling schefflera.
- *Liriope muscari*—giant liriope, a lily-like plant with blue flowers.

Other good possibilities include aglaonema, various bamboos, ferns, and araucarias (evergreen trees), as well as other species of palms and figs. □

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ROSE HIPS

The use of rose hips, the fruit of the rose, for tonics, salves, and ointments is an old practice, but with wider knowledge of vitamins, there has been increased interest in the old roses in medicine. The curative properties of attar of roses is attracting more and more interest.

Everyone should grow at least one old rose that forms attractive hips. Some of the showiest varieties are members of the *Rosa rugosa* strain, like *R. rugosa rubra* 'Delicata,' 'Blanc Double de Coubert,' 'Belle Poitevine,' and others.

Some of these rose hips resemble crabapples, are decorative in the garden, useful for floral arrangements, and delicious to eat while working around the garden. If you do not eat them, the birds will!

H.D.C.

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Old-Fashioned Gardens



Upper Left: The background of woods brings into strong and picturesque contrast the hydrangeas, poppies and hollyhocks, which bloom so profusely in this old-fashioned garden. A pretty dash of green is also obtained from the climber which has mounted to the housetop and seems bent on running over the roof.

Upper Right: The beauty of tree, plant, vine and flower is well harmonized in this garden. Along the neatly-kept walk phlox and cannas grow in profusion. On the trellis morning-glories gracefully run.

Lower Left: It would seem almost impossible for the heat of summer to obtrude itself into this inviting garden, with its almost superabundance of ageratums, irises and cosmos. A veritable barrier against the sun is the magnificent begonia which roofs the arbor so picturesquely. Rows of boxwood keep the pathway clearly marked.

Lower Right: Nature seems to have been untrammelled in fashioning this picturesque garden, although it shows loving and intelligent care from its lines of sturdy boxwood to its hollyhocks and hemerocallis which loom up so effectively in the foreground.

Editor's Note: From CALIFORNIA GARDEN files—pictures taken about 1903 and 1904 in the San Diego County area.



THE TREE AROID

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY— *Bill Gunther*



Jairo Lopez, 5'7", provides size perspective to a few of the tree aroids after they have been unloaded at Quail Botanical Gardens. Note the height of some of the aroid tree trunks; the white marks on the trunks are old leaf-base scars.

MOST FOLKS HAVE no idea what the word "aroid" means, but folks who are gardeners now are coming to recognize that term as the common name for plants of the family *Araceae*. The aroid family is a large one; it includes more than 50 different genera and over 2 000 species, and it has been seriously claimed, perhaps correctly, that every one of these 2 000 species is a beautiful plant.

To Californians, the best known aroids are calla lilies and philodendrons and caladiums, none of which are native to California. To the Hawaiians, the best known aroids are anthuriums and spathiphyllums and alocasias, none of which are native to Hawaii. To residents of Oregon and Washington, the best known aroid is the common skunk cabbage of the marshlands; it is a very attractive looking, but a very stinky, native of those states.

The reason aroids are becoming more and more popular is not alone that they are so attractive; it also is because they are so adaptable both to indoor and outdoor culture; also because they are so diversified in form and color and size; and also because in their floral structure they are uniquely different from ordinary flowering plants. To exemplify this differ-

ence, if we tell a botanist that we are going out into the garden to pick an iris flower (iris is not an aroid), there will be no problem; our terminology is correct; the blossom of an iris is a flower, and the plant is of the genus *Iris*. But then what happens if we tell a botanist that we are going to pick a calla lily flower? The botanist will flinch, and then will tell us that our terminology is wrong on three counts: (1) we should not call it a calla because it is not of the genus *Calla*; rather it is of the genus *Zantedeschia*; and (2) we should not refer to it as a lily because it is not in the lily family, it is in the aroid family; and (3) we should not refer to the bloom of any aroid as a flower; rather we should call it an "inflorescence." What we might think is the petal on the aroid is really a "spathe." What we might think is the pistil on the aroid is really a spadix, on the outside of which are many, many flowers, every one of them far too small for us to pick. This spathe and spadix configuration is typical of every species of aroids, but it occurs in no other family in the whole plant world. That is one of the reasons why, among plants, the aroids are unique.

Another reason why the aroids are particularly interesting is that as a family they exhibit extreme

CAMELLIAS LES BASKERVILLE

Now is the time—

- to maintain a regular watering program if no rains.
- to feed plants with fish or acid fertilizer.
- to pick up every bloom and petal to prevent petal blight.
- to prune plants as they finish blooming—to shape and to open up plants.
- to plant new bushes while still in bloom.
- to feed iron to promote healthy green growth.
- to watch for loopers—spray with malathion if present.

DAHLIAS ABE JANZEN

Now is the time—

- to place tubers in starting medium like vermiculite or sand in a warm place to sprout—beware of too much moisture.
- to prepare planting area by adding humus and fertilizers such as 2½ pounds of superphosphate and 2½ pounds of sulphate of potash per 100 square feet.
- to plant sprouted tubers sprout-side up 6 inches below ground surface, 2 inches from stake and cover with 2 inches of soil.
- to moisten but do not keep wet.
- to protect new growth from snails.
- to be sure to drive stake into ground before planting tubers.

EPIPHYLLUMS FRANK GRANATOWSKI

Now is the time—

- to maintain good grooming habits—to remove dead, spindly, and unsightly branches, and debris from pots.
- to remove scale residue clinging to the outside of pots.
- to repot past years cuttings that have outgrown their containers.
- to give plants a final feeding of low nitrogen or nitrogen-free fertilizer to promote blooms.
- to utilize control methods to inhibit aphids and ants attracted by nectar from attacking new buds and blooms. If insecticides are used, follow directions on label carefully.
- to remember not to relocate plants once buds have formed.
- to bait for snails, which tend to become more active with the rains.
- to gather and store rain water for future use. A few drops of oil-based insecticide in the rain barrel to inhibit wrigglers (larvae) and pesky mosquitos.
- to plan to attend and participate in the epiphyllum shows.

FERNS RAY SODOMKA

Now is the time—

- to spray for aphids and scale.
- to remove dead fronds.
- to fertilize with high nitrogen liquid or pellets.
- to divide, repot, or add leaf mold or equivalent.
- to water and keep surrounding areas damp to maintain humidity.
- to plant spore.

FUCHSIAS BILL SELBY

Now is the time—

- to do a clean-up of fallen leaves, old blossoms, and trash around your plants.
- to watch any "frost-bit" plants—they may recover with care and send out new growth. Do not prune until new growth is apparent, then prune to the new growth.
- to still prune and shape your plants.
- to still take cuttings.
- to place cuttings, started during the winter, into larger containers, but do not fertilize for at least two weeks; give the roots a chance to settle.
- to keep new growth pinched back, forcing them to branch out and make a plant bushy.
- to fertilize regularly at this time; it is critical for good lush growth and strong stems.
- to maintain a good watering schedule.

GERANIUMS CAROL ROLLER

Now is the time—

- to water thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Keep foliage as dry as possible.
- to continue feeding a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water every 4th or 6th watering, using the fertilizer at half the recommended strength.
- to continue a pest control and disease prevention program using products according to the manufacturers' directions.
- to selectively prune and pinch zonals and ivies for future bloom. Avoid cutting regals because the flowers will be lost by pruning at this time.
- to remove faded flowers and old discolored leaves.
- to continue to rotate pots on a regular basis to produce well-shaped plants.
- to enjoy your geraniums at the height of their season.

GESNERIADS MIKE LUDWIG

Now is the time—

- to clean plants to give a fresh start. To trim, repot and check for pests.
- to make sure to water and fertilize more as active growth starts.
- to clean your growing area. Discard old leaves and flowers; spray for pests that may be making their spring debut. Bait for snails and slugs.
- to prepare for new plants. Make starts and orders for plants early to receive prime plants.
- to fertilize with trace elements if you have not repotted. This will help replace the elements lost in watering and needed by the plant.
- to force any stubborn plant out of dormancy; warmer temperatures and moisture will aid most plants in growing.
- to have fresh soil for planting seedlings at once, and to use with any transplanting.
- to repot african violets in a pot 1/3rd the size of the plant—a 12-inch plant should be in a 4-inch pot.
- to have a regular feeding schedule; best to feed at ¼ strength every time you water the violets.

HEMEROCALLIS LAWRENCE SMITH

Now is the time—

- to divide overgrown plants before hot weather.
- to replant in well-prepared soil with plenty of humus.
- to fertilize established plants with a fertilizer of 1-1-1 ratio (such as 6-6-6) or a 1-2-1 ratio (such as a 5-10-5). New plantings should not be fertilized until they have become established.
- to spray when necessary to control aphids; malathion, diazinon, and cygon are effective.

ORCHIDS CHARLIE FOUQUETTE

Now is the time—

- to move cymbidiums into a protected shaded area as they come into bloom.
- to feed cymbidiums with low nitrogen fertilizer.
- to check for slugs and snails especially after a rain.
- to protect plants from showers that might harm spikes.
- to place stakes to support spikes as they develop.
- to repot cattleyas that are showing new "eyes."
- to repot paphiopedilum (cypripedium) after blooming.
- to protect phalaenopsis plants that are in spike from drafts and temperature changes to prevent bud blast.
- to shade areas that are becoming too warm inside and outside hot houses.

ROSES BRIAN DONN

Now is the time—

- to water generously, weekly if rainfall is light.
- to keep foliage beautiful and disease and pest-free, use Orthene and Funginex which can be mixed and applied in one application—about every ten days.
- Use also for elimination of thrips which cause brown 'freckles' and streaks on petals.
- to give assistance to those newly planted bushes that seem slow to progress, apply a root-stimulant such as Hormex or Super Thrive.
- to feed established bushes with a balanced rose food every 3 to 4 weeks, except when in full bloom.

VEGETABLES GEORGE JAMES

Now is the time—

- to start in pots in a warm place and plant in the garden in April and May seeds of beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, summer squash, and tomatoes.
- to set started plants of Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, kale, onions, lettuce and collards.
- to plant onion set and cloves of garlic.



GREEN THUMB ITEMS BMUTH NEERG

Now is the time—

- to give a top dressing of fresh rich soil and humus to clivias, agapanthus, and hippeastrums (amaryllis).
- to fertilize azaleas and camellias as soon as they are through blooming with an acid-type special compound for these shrubs.
- to mulch and reseed lawns in April where necessary.
- to prune spring-flowering shrubs using the sprigs for home decor.
- to finish planting bare-root trees and shrubs in March.
- to plant perennials—carnations, gerberas, marguerites, and Shasta daisies.
- to set out annuals—asters, larkspur, marigolds, pansies, and petunias for spring color.
- to plant calla lilies, cannas, tuberose, gladiolus, and tuberous begonias.
- to feed lawns in April.
- to divide chrysanthemums that are large enough. Select new growth from outside the old clump.

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THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN ILLUSTRATED EBCYCLOPEDIA OF HORTICULTURE by Thomas H. Everett. Garland Publishing Co., New York and London, 1981, Volume 2, Be to Cha, 347 pages, \$525.00 the set.

It is a pleasure again to welcome arrival of the second volume of this magnificent work. As was mentioned in the review of the first volume, the author is senior horticultural specialist of the New York Botanical Garden who has the unusual ability to write for the amateur as well as his professional colleagues.

Plants are discussed in the alphabetical order of their generic names with abundant cross references to common names, and the word plant is understood broadly so that it includes trees, vegetables, herbs and even mosses besides the ornamentals that we think of when the word is used.

But beyond the botanical entries are a wealth of discussions "of many subjects of interest to gardeners and others concerned with plants," such as a calendar of gardening activity by areas, plants of the Bible, ten pages of descriptions of major botanic gardens by states, and even a short entry on how to protect birds from cats.

Major entries are those under begonias, bonsai, cactus, camellias, campanula and cattleya. A valuable feature is provision of pronunciation details with each entry. This reviewer now feels surer about speaking of those tortured little trees that we inherited from Japan.

No notice of Volume 2 would be complete without mention of the almost extravagant illustration, both in black and white with the entries and the pages of color photographs that are brilliant examples of camera technique. Look for yourself.

Reviewed by RUSSELL P. MacFALL

MARCH-APRIL 1981



BOOK REVIEW

NOW IS THE THYME by Josephine Gray, compiled by Helen Schafer, San Diego Herb Society. Baker Offset Printing, 2599 Mission Gorge Rd., San Diego, CA 92120. 1980, 125 pages, paperback, \$5.00 plus 30¢ California tax (\$6.50 by mail).

Now is the Thyme is a compilation of fascinating herb and horticultural articles by Josephine Gray, a long time member of the National Herb Society and the San Diego County Herb Society. Herbs, however, were not her only hobby; her extensive garden was a joy she shared.

Material in Part 1 was published between 1971 and 1980 in **CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE**. Such titles as *Midsummer Gossip About Herbs*, *The Royal Signs*, *Aroint the Witch*, and *Rainy Daze* catch the eye and pique the interest.

Part 2 consists of articles that appeared in the Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club's publication, *Rancho Santa Fe Leaf*.

From 1964 to 1968 Mrs. Gray wrote a column called *The Green Thumb Print* for the *Rancho Santa Fe Times* and these articles make up Part 3.

In Part 4 one finds two articles that appeared in *The Herb Grower Magazine* published in Connecticut.

Josephine Gray's way with words makes this book a delightful bedside companion.

Reviewed by ALLETHE MACDONALD

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